

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
OCTOBER 28, 2011
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Arnold, *Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)*
Mark Blackwell, *Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs (VADAP)*
Tia Campbell, *Department of Education (DOE)*
Timothy Carter, *Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA)*)
W. Curtis Coleburn, III, *Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)*
Donna Gassie, *Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)*
Linda Hamilton, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)*
Parham Jaber, M.D., *Department of Health (DOH)*
Jamie McDonald, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Prevention (VACSB-Prevention)*
Charlene Motley, *Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)*
Jean Mottley, *Department of Corrections (DOC)*
Ron Pritchard, *Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (VAADAC)*
Mellie Randall, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*
Jessica Turfboer, *Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)*
Bob Weakley, *Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)*
Michelle White, *Virginia Drug Court Association (VDCA)*
Diane Williams, *Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia (SACAVA)*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/ SA Council (VACSB-SA)*

GUEST:

Lynn Crammer, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA)*
Malcolm King, *DBHDS*
Debra Prince, *Concerned Citizen*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DBHDS*
Julie Truitt, *DBHDS*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, Will Williams, with introductions by those in attendance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2011 MEETING: Dr. Jabari requested a correction and amendment to his comment under new business to read *the summit focused on prescription substance abuse*. A motion made by Will Williams to approve the minutes as corrected carried.

OLD BUSINESS

■ AGENCY UPDATES

- Jean Mottley, DOC – Beginning in 2012 the DOC will be implementing the Matrix Model as an intensive outpatient program in prisons with the intent of having a greater impact on offenders; DOC will also keep their therapeutic communities.
- Stephanie Arnold, DCJS- Effective October 1, 2011, grants funded by the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSATP) grant were awarded to three new grantees: the Virginia Department of Corrections, Hampton City Sheriff's Office and Chesterfield County to begin or enhance residential substance treatment programs in their facilities.
- Donna Gassie, VFHY - The window for application and submission of RFPs to receive funding for tobacco use prevention services to be provided around the state has closed. Recipients will be awarded funding for a period of three years; 84 applications were received and 40-50 proposals are expected to be funded.
- Linda Hamilton, VACSB- Region Ten is preparing to begin the IDDT (Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment) model. July 1 is the expected start date for full implementation. Region Ten has arranged a meeting with UVA Family Doc Center to look at the possibility of providing training to their physicians about the recognition and misuse of prescription drugs.
- Mark Blackwell, Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs- SAARA and DBHDS are hosting a conference on November 9 and 10 in Charlottesville that focuses on integrating peers into the continuum of care. This will be the 3rd conference for peers.
- Diane Williams, SACAVA --Partnering with Old Dominion University to establish a program and/or criteria to assist individuals with obtaining appropriate education for SA certification.

NEW BUSINESS

- **REVIEW DRAFT OF 2011 SASC ANNUAL REPORT AND PLAN:** Council members were e-mailed a draft of the report for their comments. Ms. Randall stated that the Governor had asked DBHDS to develop an interagency plan (Creating Opportunities) to address the substance abuse treatment needs of the state. Ms. Randall provided members with a verbal synopsis of the Creating Opportunities plan at the last Council meeting. Ms. Randall proposed and Council agreed to review the plan to help in the development of topics to be highlight in its annual report. The draft is an extraction of the intent in identifying the issues that were identified in the Creating Opportunities strategic plan. The floor was opened for discussion.

Mellie Randall indicated that all language or references regarding specific dollar amounts had been removed from the report to avoid competing with the Governor's Budget.

Michelle White suggested that the report also include the benefits of drug courts, the current cost benefits analysis work that is being completed, and the Council's support of the sustainability and expansion of drug courts. After discussion, a motion was made by Michelle White and seconded by Mark Blackwell to accept the current language of the draft report and make an addendum note that indicates that the National Center for State Courts is currently conducting a cost-benefit analysis. The motion was carried.

Will Williams noted that with the report was comprehensive in specifically addressing treatment needs and expressed the hope that the report will address the Governor's concerns.

A motion made by Ron Pritchard to accept the report as amended carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

▪ **DISCUSSION OF VIRGINIA PRISONER & JUVENILE OFFENDER RE-ENTRY COUNCIL:** Ms.

Randall reported that the Re-entry Council has been a major focus of the Governor. The Re-entry Council had their last meeting for 2011 on October 19 and presented their recommendations. Behavioral health providers were well represented on the various subcommittees. Ms. Randall highlighted some of the findings of the Re-entry Council's draft report. The Re-entry Council is proposing innovative ideas that support readiness for successful community transition for individuals who are re-entering the community after periods of incarceration. A few of the recommendations of interest to the Council included:

- Employment, a behind the walls entrepreneurship program in which private companies would form a partnership with DOC to provide training and setting up like industry in prisons setting so that when offenders are released they would have good work habits and some work skills that would carry them into the community to include fair wages through this work;
- Housing for ex-offenders, to include addressing some of the restrictive housing authority regulations and providing some strong guidance to housing authorities about the limits or broader interpretations of the HUD regulations;
- Pre-discharge protocol regarding housing requirement in the discharge plan
- Development/or re-establishment of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards and DOC that supports the provision of timely services to offenders in the community in both the treatment of substance use disorders and mental illness. There may be a study regarding the barriers related to the CSBs response to the needs related to offenders.
- Legislative action to opt Virginia out of the federal ban on providing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF – same as VIEW program) to persons convicted of felony drug possession. This primarily effects women who have dependent children;
- Recommending that Domestic Relation Judges could consider actual available resources during incarceration when ordering child support to reduce the amount owed in back child support when released from incarceration;
- Recommending that DJJ utilize Second Chance funds to assist in juvenile post release needs such as housing and finances to support themselves;
- Establishing a transitional pod at DJJ facilities for re-entry services
- Having DJJ adopt the DOC model of allowing juveniles to apply for Medicaid prior to release from the institution;
- Having DCE track and monitor instructional time earned while individuals are incarcerated to help them in earning credits; and
- Having DOC provide training and educational resources in non-traditional fields for women who are incarcerated, and offering evening classes through partnerships with community colleges so that women would come out with a marketable skill in non-traditional areas.

Ms. Randall stated that the report has not been published, there have been some modifications made to the report. Ms. Randall will provide members the link to the web site of the Re-entry Council so that members can be checking for the final report of the group.

Jean Motley suggested the Council invite someone from the Re-entry Council to make a presentation at a future meeting of this Council. Ms. Randall stated that she will extend an invitation to Jane Brown to come to speak to the Council.

- **DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF TASK FORCE ON ALTERNATIVES FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS:** Members were provided with a handout that described an alternative court being discussed by the task force. Ms. Randall stated that the focus of the meeting was to review a report of the subcommittee on drug treatment courts. A focus of the discussion was regarding the role of drug courts. This subcommittee is proposing piloting a model of specialty courts (or SURE courts) that would focus on technical violators. There was concern among the drug treatment court community that this pilot would have a negative effect on the drug treatment courts. Ms. Randall stated that she staffed this subcommittee and there was a lot of discussion that this proposed specialty court would complement drug courts and that there would be opportunities for offenders to be screened and referred to drug treatment courts. A suggestion from the subcommittee task force was made to have the SURE pilots placed only in communities where drug treatment courts currently exists; to insure that the population of the SURE courts to focus exclusively on technical violators to screen out people who are substance dependent and people with serious mental illness. The objective of the SURE court is to have rapid sanctions after the technical violation, to save money in the long run and help these individuals return to the community quicker and not end up back in the DOC system.

Ms. Randall stated that the concerns at the task force level were that there will hopefully be some funding, if this passes, for the pilots to operate in the courts. There is concern about what the local cost impact would be. The piloting of SURE Courts in 3-5 sites will assist in the obtaining knowledge regarding who the technical violators are and what services they need to stop the cycle of re-offending. She stated that the subcommittee is open for technical assistance. Ms. Randall stated that the Council should keep in mind that this is just a pilot for evaluation for two years. At the end of the two years the pilot will look at the recidivism rate and other issues and determine if SURE should be continued as a pilot, expanded or law in State code.

- **ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS**
 - Will Williams expressed concern about the new synthetic marijuana drug, K2 or Spice, which is becoming an increasing problem in most jurisdictions. The drug is difficult to detect. He further stated that there is limited urine drug screen testing for this drug because testing is very expensive. Mr. Williams suggested that Council convene a workgroup to study new trends in synthetic and designer drugs and how to get the information out to doctors, mental health professionals and to any person who prescribe other types of drugs particularly antidepressants and psychotropic medications. Persons

under the influence of this drug sometime appear with symptoms of psychosis, and the misdiagnosis may trigger a medical emergency.

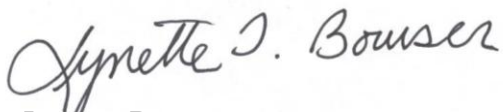
Members who volunteered to be part of the workgroup: Will Williams, Ron Pritchard, Michelle White, Jean Motley, Charlene Motley and Diane Williams. Senator Herring and someone from the Prevention field will be contacted regarding participation in the workgroup. Ms. Randall will Chair the workgroup.

- Ms Randall stated that three counties in the far southwest; Lee, Scott and Wise, have been admitted to the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) region. HIDTA is a federal law enforcement program that provides additional resources to designated geographic areas that have been especially affected by specific types of drug problems. The Appalachian HIDTA is focused on abuse of prescription pain medication.
 - Jamie McDonald noted that a proclamation is being drafted by the VACSB Prevention Council naming April 30, 2012 as drug take back day in Virginia. The expectation is a coordinated drug take back effort, with at least one event in each of the health planning regions across the state.
- Public Comment:
- Debra Prince addressed the Council on the need for counselors, doctors, etc. to address and understand the mental health side of substance abusers. She gave some background on her own substance abuse history as well as her recently deceased husband's struggles with maintaining sobriety. She also talked about her husband's treatment history and how programs need to realize that mental health may play a big part in why some people cannot stop using drugs. She advocated for the availability of treatment earlier, more flexible programming and more open to all the needs of an individual to include an individual's mental health needs.

NEXT MEETING: The next Council meeting will be scheduled after the General Assembly Session ends and is projected for March of 2012. Staff will contact members via e-mail with a date.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted


Lynette Bowser